

February 24, 2015

The Honorable Ben Cardin
509 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin and Senator Collins:

Representing the interests of patients, consumers and health care providers, the undersigned organizations as part of the Therapy Cap Coalition, commend you for your leadership and bipartisan introduction of the Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act, legislation that would repeal the arbitrary cap on outpatient rehabilitation services. This legislation would protect patients and consumers from arbitrary limits on therapy services so often needed after a stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fracture, or to effectively manage conditions such as Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, or arthritis.

Since 1997's Balanced Budget Act, Congress has acted 12 times to prevent implementation of an arbitrary cap on outpatient therapy services for Medicare beneficiaries. Without action, beneficiaries face a hard cap on services which disproportionately impacts beneficiaries who need therapy the most. This issue has historically moved through Congress along with legislation on the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR). In the 113th Congress, a permanent solution to this policy was nearly accomplished with provisions to repeal and reform the therapy cap included in Senate SGR legislation last year. Completing this legislation before the March 31st deadline provides an opportunity to end the pattern of yearly extensions that puts access to medically necessary therapy for 1 million Medicare beneficiaries at risk. Including a long-term therapy cap solution in the larger SGR package will ensure that Medicare beneficiaries will continue to have access to these vital services.

In the last Congressional session, your legislation enjoyed a bipartisan majority of support in the House with 225 cosponsors and garnered the support of more than one-third of the Senate. We hope to see this support continue and stand ready to assist your efforts to find a permanent solution to the Medicare therapy caps.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American College of Rheumatology
American Health Care Association
American Heart Association/American Stroke Association
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Speech-Language Hearing Association
Arthritis Foundation

Brain Injury Association of America
Easter Seals
Focus On Therapeutic Outcomes, Inc. (FOTO)
LeadingAge
National Association of Rehabilitation Providers and Agencies
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Association for the Support of Long Term Care
National Stroke Association
National Center for Assisted Living
Parkinson's Action Network
Private Practice Section of APTA
PTPN (Physical Therapy Provider Network)
The ALS Association
United Spinal Association